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10/612,429	07/02/2003	Qiong Liu	FXPL-01064US0	6567
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EXAMINER				
MONIKANG, GEORGE C				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,429

Applicant(s)

LIU ET AL.

Examiner

GEORGE C. MONIKANG

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-4, 10-13, 15 and 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5-9, 14 and 17-24 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/28/2004, 1/2/2004
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 5-7, 14, 17-18 & 20-21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Omoigui, US Patent 7,237,254 B1.
3. Re Claim 1, Omoigui discloses a method for managing audio devices located at a live event during the live event (col. 1, lines 40-48), comprising: capturing video content of the live event at a first location (col. 1, lines 40-48), the video content having pixels associated with the audio device located at the first location (col. 1, lines 40-48: pixels associated with the video); providing the video content of the live event captured at the first location to a user at a second location during the live event (col. 1, lines 40-48: pixels associated with the video: content from the first location is streamed to a user over the internet); receiving a selection of a first group of pixels (col. 1, lines 40-48: pixels associated with the video), the selection made by a user during the live event (col. 1, lines 40-48: pixels associated with the video: selection made by a user controlling the camera at the first location), the first group of pixels within the content (col. 1, lines 40-48: pixels associated with the video); selecting the audio device at the first location associated with the first group of pixels (col. 1, lines 40-48: pixels associated with the video and audio); and providing live audio from the selected audio

device at the first location to the user at a second location (*col. 1, lines 40-48: pixels associated with the video*).

4. Omoigui fails to disclose the video content being associated with a plurality of audio devices. Official notice is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing a plurality of audio devices associated with the video content at a live location are well known in the art. Thus it would have been obvious to use a plurality of audio devices associated with the video content at a live location where the most appropriate or closest audio device from the plurality of audio devices associated with the video content is broadcasted since using more than one audio device for video content are commonly used such as to pick up sounds from various different locations and providing the user at the remote location with the best audio associated with the live video content e.g. live video streaming online.

Claims 5, 7, 14, 18 & 20 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 1.

Re Claim 6, which further recites, "Wherein the parameters include signal to noise ratio." Omoigui does not explicitly disclose a signal to noise ratio as claimed. Official notice is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing a signal to noise ratio are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to use a signal to noise ratio since it is commonly used to identify the amount of background noise interference in a sound signal as a means to select the audio devices.

Claim 17 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 6.

Claim 21 has been analyzed and rejected according to claims 1 & 6.

1. Claims 8 & 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Omoigui, US Patent 7,237,254 B1, in view of Frederick, US Patent 5,757,424. (The Frederick reference is cited in IDS filed 5/28/2004)

Re Claim 8, Omoigui discloses the method of claim 1, but fails to disclose providing 2-way audio between the user and a second user, the user located at a remote location and the second user located at a first location associated with the video content. However, Frederick does (Frederick, abstract: video communication with remote location can include audio).

Taking the combined teachings of Omoigui and Frederick as a whole, one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to modify the method for managing audio devices of Omoigui with providing 2-way audio between the user and a second user, the user located at a remote location and the second user located at a first location associated with the video content as taught in Frederick (Frederick, abstract: video communication with remote location can include audio) to enable better editing of the audio/video content thus having better broadcast.

Claim 22 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 8.

Claim 23 has been analyzed and rejected according to claims 1 & 8.

Re Claim 24, which further recites, "Wherein the audio device includes a far-field microphone and a close-talking microphone" as claimed. Official notice is taken that both the concepts and advantages of providing a far-field and close-talking microphone are well known in the art. Thus it would have been obvious to provide far-field and

close-talking microphones to capture various sounds at the live event to provide a viewer with a realistic sound of the live event.

2. Claims 9 & 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Omoigui, US Patent 7,237,254 B1, as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Takahashi et al, US Patent 6,654,498 B2 and further in view of Rui et al, US Patent 7,349,005 B2.

Re Claim 9, Omoigui discloses the method of claim 1, but fails to disclose further comprising: automatically selecting a second group of pixels, the second group of pixels associated with a second weight and selected as a result of detecting motion in the video content (Takahashi et al, col. 5, lines 18-32), the first group of pixels associated with a first weight (Takahashi et al, col. 5, lines 18-32; col. 5, lines 47-52). However, Takahashi et al does. The combined teachings of Omoigui and Takahashi et al fail to disclose wherein providing audio includes: providing audio from the audio device associated with the group of pixels associated with the highest weight (Rui et al, col. 23, line 63 through col. 24, line 23). However, Rui et al does.

Taking the combined teachings of Omoigui, Takahashi et al and Rui et al as a whole, one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to modify the method of Omoigui with automatically selecting a second group of pixels, the second group of pixels associated with a second weight and selected as a result of detecting motion in the video content (Takahashi et al, col. 5, lines 18-32), the first group of pixels associated with a first weight (Takahashi et al, col. 5, lines 18-32; col. 5, lines 47-52) as taught in Takahashi et al for the purpose of increasing the freedom of image

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transmission, improving the operability and externally transmitting the intended information with providing audio from the audio device associated with the group of pixels associated with the highest weight (*Rui et al, col. 23, line 63 through col. 24, line 23*) as taught in Rui et al for the purpose of taking into account the desires of the listening/viewing audience.

Claim 19 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 9.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GEORGE C. MONIKANG whose telephone number is (571)270-1190. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. alt Fri. Off 7:30am-5:00pm (est).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chin Vivian can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/George C Monikang/
Examiner, Art Unit 2615

8/1/2008

/Vivian Chin/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2615